

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GENE DIPOTO et al. Confirmation No.: 1092
Serial No.: 10/693,815 Examiner: ANURADHA RAMANA
Filing Date: OCTOBER 24, 2003 Group Art Unit: 3733
Docket No.: 1291.1143101 Customer No.: 28075
Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR STABILIZING THE SPINE
THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE

AMENDMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR §1.111

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this 8th day of April, 2008.

Signature:  Name: Rachel Gagliardi

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action of the Examiner mailed January 11, 2008, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on April 11, 2008. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.